

Congratulations to the City of Citronelle on this special occasion and a very Happy 200th birthday! May there be many more good years ahead in the next chapter of your rich history.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yes" on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 10.

#### SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter from one of my constituents with respect to the debate on H.R. 1254 that occurred on December 7, 2011.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LATHAM: Regarding the Synthetic Drug Control Act, as you know I am a mother who lost her son to these drugs and I can't stop myself from reacting to the opposition on the floor yesterday.

Hundreds of chemical compounds are used to make synthetic drugs manufactured under the guise of bath salts, plant food, k2 and various names of synthetic marijuana—with the sole purpose being to ingest. These drugs are smoked, snorted, injected, or put into drinks. The label may say they are not for human consumption, but they are implicitly being sold as such.

Yet those opposing H.R. 1254 argue that not enough research has been done to prove whether or not these already banned and potentially future banned chemicals would bear any medical benefit.

To the contrary, not only have the synthetic drugs included in this legislation failed to show medicinal promise, but the Controlled Substances Act would still allow research on these synthetic drugs to continue if H.R. 1254 were enacted.

Under current law, researchers, universities and labs may register with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to obtain Schedule I controlled substances for scientific study. DEA allows thousands of labs to handle Schedule I drugs for scientific and investigative purposes. Chemicals with "a high potential for abuse" and "a lack of accepted safety" under the Controlled Substances Act should be placed under Schedule I—available for scientific study but not sold on convenience store shelves.

The reality is that without H.R. 1254, our society will continue to allow informal, unsupervised and unethical medical experimentation—with our kids as the subjects. It begins with unscrupulous manufacturers obtaining unknown chemical compounds from other countries. It is either manufactured overseas here or in our own backyard. These drugs are openly sold to those "18 years or older" and can be purchased at gas stations, convenience stores and head shops around this country. Its availability is rampant on the internet as well. It is difficult if not im-

possible to find out who the people really are that sell the chemicals or premade products. When it's all said and done, it is American teens who are being endangered and experimented with.

Let's be bold and put a stop to the newest drug trends that are sweeping across our nation like a tidal wave—Jan Rozga, Indianola, IA

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN KATZ

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Alaska's most distinguished, faithful, and respected public servants, John Katz.

Fresh out of Berkley Law, he boldly moved to Alaska and made a decision to embark upon a life of selfless public service to the people of Alaska. Among his first few jobs in public service were being Alaska Commissioner of Natural Resources and special counsel on land-use issues, before being appointed the Governor's man in Washington D.C. in 1983.

His departure can only be described as an enormous loss for our great state. For more than 40 years, and spanning eight governors, he has served Alaska with unwavering commitment, integrity, and with the utmost level of professionalism. Having worked with him for almost 30 of those years, I have little doubt that his loyalty to and knowledge of Alaska is second to none.

Through thick and thin, his dedication to Alaska was evident to everyone who worked with him. Over the years he has always put the needs of Alaska first, no more so than when he delayed his retirement at the request of Governor Frank Murkowski.

His reputation of being calm and cool under pressure is well known and his ability to work well with Republicans and Democrats alike should be emulated by others here in Washington. He once said his greatest disappointment was being unable to open up ANWR and I share that disappointment with him.

But despite ANWR, he was an integral part of every positive development to happen to Alaska in the last three decades including Alaska Native rights, fisheries management, protecting Alaska's sovereignty, and natural resource development. After all the work we've done together, I will do my utmost to continue this legacy for the good of Alaska.

He is exactly the kind of public servant who gives public service a good name. My staff and I will miss working with him, but I hope that our paths will continue to cross.

Thank you for your service to Alaska, John, and I wish you all the best in the future.

#### SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2011*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I am voting for this legislation because, like the rest of my

colleagues, I want to see an end to the illegal manufacture, sale, and use of synthetic drugs that mimic the properties of illegal drugs. Many of these drugs are extremely dangerous and warrant control. In fact, some 30 states, including Hawaii, have laws that address the manufacture, sale, and use of synthetic drugs.

I am concerned, however, that we may be moving too fast. I would prefer to see a bill that is as important as this considered under regular order, with members having an opportunity to offer amendments. I am hoping that the Senate will take a more measured approach in considering this legislation.

I am especially concerned about the application of mandatory minimum sentences and Schedule I penalties that are included in this bill. I support judicial discretion, especially when the lives and futures of young people are involved.

I know too that there are concerns that this could impede legitimate scientific research of chemical compounds listed in this bill. Adjustments to this legislation may be needed to ensure that we don't hinder development of future biomedical breakthroughs.

We need to make sure the legislation targets those most responsible for widespread distribution of these drugs. Most important, we need to find ways to keep our young people from using synthetic drugs. Education of parents and young people is badly needed as is market regulation to reduce the availability and misuse of certain household and industrial aerosol products. Adding to our already crowded prisons is not a real solution to the very real problem of synthetic drugs.

#### THE CENTENNIAL SEASON OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and joy that I join my constituents in celebration of the centennial season of the San Francisco Symphony. Its illustrious history is marked by commitment to artistic excellence and innovation; its future is sustained by its large and loyal base of supporters.

One hundred years ago today, December 8, 1911, the Symphony gave its first performance. In recognition of this historic occasion, on September 7, 2011 we began a year-long celebration with a free outdoor concert at the Civic Center Plaza with Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, pianist Lang Lang and violinist Itzhak Perlman. This concert demonstrated the San Francisco Symphony's value of making music available to everyone. The founders believed music was a source of enrichment and pleasure intended for all and not the province of the privileged few. Reaching broader audiences has always been a priority, from recordings and radio broadcasts in the 1920s to video and internet today. Today the San Francisco Symphony has accomplished one of its early goals, to offer music to a city, to a Nation and to the world.

To help commemorate the centennial over the next year, San Franciscans will welcome notable performers and six of our Nation's greatest orchestras will visit San Francisco: